

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for generating an audio alert and processing an audio command, comprising:

detecting an alert condition identifying a problem with a system component;

filtering the alert condition to determine a ~~multi-tiered~~ notification path associated with the alert condition, ~~each tier of the notification path identifying one or more users assigned a level of responsibility with respect to the alert condition~~, the ~~multi-tiered~~ notification path being determined based at least on a type or a location of the system component property of an object associated with the alert condition, the object being stored in an object repository;

constructing an audio notification message based on at least one parameter associated with the alert condition; and

outputting the audio notification message via ~~at least one tier of the multi-tiered notification path~~ path;

receiving an audio command;

processing the audio command to derive command data;

constructing a command based on the command data; and

storing the command in the object repository.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein constructing an audio notification message includes identifying a portion of the message that is likely to be difficult for a user to understand and replacing the identified portion with a more easily understood synonym.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein detecting ~~at least an~~ alert condition includes detecting an alert condition within a plurality of subsystems of a network management application.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising defining at least one audio characteristic associated with the audio notification message.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein the audio characteristic is a volume.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein the audio characteristic is a balance.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the audio notification message is presented in accordance with a filter.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, ~~wherein~~ wherein:
the notification path comprises a multi-tiered notification path, each tier of the multi-tiered notification path identifying one or more users assigned a level of responsibility with respect to the alert condition;

the determining the multi-tiered notification path includes determining the multi-tiered notification path, the determining the multi-tiered notification path including analyzing a parameter associated with the alert condition and selecting the at least one tier of the notification path based on the parameter; and

the audio notification message is output via the at least one tier of the multi-tiered notification path.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 9, wherein determining the multi-tiered notification path includes analyzing an escalation list.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein constructing the audio notification message includes:

determining a user associated with the audio notification message;
determining a language preference associated with the user; and
constructing the audio message based on the language preference.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A system for generating an audio alert and processing an audio command, comprising; the system operable to:

~~means for detecting~~ detect an alert condition identifying a problem with a system component;

~~means for filtering~~ filter the alert condition to determine a ~~multi-tiered~~ notification path associated with the alert condition, ~~each tier of the notification path identifying one or more users assigned a level of responsibility with respect to the alert condition;~~ the multi-tiered notification path being determined based at least on a ~~type or a location of the system component~~ property of an object associated with the alert condition, the object being stored in an object repository;

~~means for constructing~~ construct an audio notification message based on at least one parameter associated with the alert condition; ~~and~~

~~means for outputting~~ output the audio notification message via ~~at least one tier of the multi-tiered notification path~~ path;

receive an audio command;

process the audio command to derive command data;

construct a command based on the command data; and

store the command in the object repository.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium encoded with processing instructions for generating an audio alert and processing an audio command, including:

computer readable instructions for detecting an alert condition identifying a problem with a system component;

computer readable instructions for filtering the alert condition to determine a ~~multi-tiered~~ notification path associated with the alert condition, ~~each tier of the notification path identifying one or more users assigned a level of responsibility with respect to the alert condition~~, the ~~multi-tiered~~ notification path being determined based at least on a type or a location of the system component property of an object associated with the alert condition, the object being stored in an object repository;

computer readable instructions for constructing an audio notification message based on at least one parameter associated with the alert condition; ~~and~~

computer readable instructions for outputting the audio notification message via ~~at least one tier of the multi-tiered notification path~~ path;

computer readable instructions for receiving an audio command;

computer readable instructions for processing the audio command to derive command data;

computer readable instructions for constructing a command based on the command data; and

computer readable instructions for storing the command in the object repository.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein:
the notification path comprises a multi-tiered notification path, each tier of the multi-
tiered notification path identifying one or more users assigned a level of responsibility with
respect to the alert condition; and

the method further comprising comprises identifying the occurrence of a prior alert condition that was not responded to, ~~and wherein~~ the multi-tier notification path is being determined based at least in part on the occurrence of the prior alert condition.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein:
the notification path comprises a multi-tiered notification path, each tier of the multi-
tiered notification path identifying one or more users assigned a level of responsibility with
respect to the alert condition; and

the method further comprising comprises assigning the level of responsibility to each of the one or more users based upon the severity of the alert condition.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein:
the notification path comprises a multi-tiered notification path, each tier of the multi-
tiered notification path identifying one or more users assigned a level of responsibility with
respect to the alert condition; and

the method further comprising comprises assigning the level of responsibility to each of the one or more users based upon a type of object associated with the alert condition.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising constructing an additional audio notification message if the audio notification message is not responded to within a designated time limit.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising constructing an additional audio notification message if the alert condition is not addressed within a designated time limit.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein:
the notification path comprises a multi-tiered notification path, each tier of the multi-
tiered notification path identifying one or more users assigned a level of responsibility with
respect to the alert condition;
the audio notification message is output via the at least one tier of the multi-tiered
notification path; and
the method further comprising ~~comprising~~ comprises filtering the audio notification message such
that at least one user on the multi-tiered notification path does not receive the audio
notification message.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 22, wherein filtering the audio
notification message comprises filtering the audio notification message based on a property
associated with an object associated with the alert condition.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 23, wherein the property is
selected from the group consisting of a type of the object, a name of the object, a location of
the object, the severity of the alert condition, the time of day, a level of risk, and an
importance assigned to the object.